

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8616

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WASHDC, BRUSSELS PASS FAA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, UK

SUBJ: ICAO: AWOP-6 MEETING DATES

REF: (A) STATE 296627, (B) STATE 297879,
(C) STATE 299537, AND (D) STATE 299703

1. ON DEC 9 AFTER RECEIPT OF REF'S (A) AND (B), BUT PRIOR RECEIPT OF REF'S (C) AND (D), FAA REP HAD LONG DISCUSSION WITH MR. T. J. MCWIGGAN, DIRECTOR TELS, UK/CAA. MR. MCWIGGAN WAS EMPHATIC ON POINT THAT AWOP/WG HAD REACHED AGREEMENT, BASED ON DISCUSSIONS HELD IN THE HAGUE, BOSTON (SUB-GROUP ON MULTIPATH) AND LONDON, THAT FIELD TESTING OF DMLS AND TRSB WAS NOT ONLY DESIRABLE, BUT REQUIRED BEFORE AWOP COULD TAKE A DECISION.

2. MR. MCWIGGAN CONTINUED HIS ARGUMENT FOR DELAY IN THE MEETING OF AWOP MAKING THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

THE BASIC LOGIC SUPPORTING THE REQUIREMENT NOT TO PROCEED UNTIL THE MULTIPATH PROBLEM IS SHOWN TO BE CONCLUSIVELY RESOLVED.

WHAT IS NEED (OTHER THAN U.S. MILITARY) TO REACH EARLY (AND PERHAPS NOT BEST) DECISION ON A SYSTEM THAT WILL BE IN USE FOR THE NEXT 30-40 YEARS? HE ALSO MADE THE OBSERVATION THAT NO EUROPEAN AIRLINE WANTED TO FACE THE PROSPECTS OF AN EXPENSIVE RE-

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EQUIPPING FOR A NEW AVIONICS SYSTEM, AND THAT AS FAR

AS HE KNEW, THE U.S. CARRIERS WERE OF THE SAME
OPINION.

HE EXPRESSED THE BELIEF THAT ONE OF THE MAJOR REASONS
FOR U.S. RELUCTANCE TO AGREE TO PARALLEL TRIALS OF
DMLS AND TRSB IS THAT THE U.S. SYSTEM, PARTICULARLY
THE ANTENNA, IS NOT READY FOR SUCH TRIALS.

IF STALEMATE (DEFINED AS ANYTHING OTHER THAN UNANI-
MOUS VOTE) IS REACHED BY THE WORKING GROUP, AWOP
WILL NOT BE ABLE TO MAKE A DECISIVE AND SUPPORTABLE
RECOMMENDATION OF A SYSTEM TO THE ANC, THEREBY IN-
DUCING CHAOS IN THE PROGRAM TO ESTABLISH WORLDWIDE
MLS STANDARDS AND SPECIFICATIONS.

3. COMMENT: THERE ARE TWO NEW POINTS OF SIGNIFICANCE
BEING EXPRESSED NOW BY THE U.K. ONE IS THE REQUIREMENT
TO CONDUCT PARALLEL TESTS AND DEMONSTRATIONS PRIOR TO
THE WORKING GROUP'S RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE AWOP, AND THE
OTHER IS THE DEFINING OF "STALEMATE" AND ITS PREDICTED
CHAOTIC EFFECT ON THE ABILITY OF ICAO TO REACH A DE-
CISION. THE IMPRESSION GAINED IS THAT OF THE U.S.
BULLDOZING A PATH TO DECISION IRRESPECTIVE OF LOGIC,
FACTS, AND THE NEED TO BE OBJECTIVE. THERE ARE EVEN
HINTS OF MORE ARCANE REASONS FOR THE "RUSH TO DECISION".

ARMSTRONG

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